There wasn't any Hydro....

Carlotta lit a candelabra, on Romeo's buffet. Where he took her, last time....

She and Lesbia Maecenas were invoking Satan to put toad-spells on Citizen Hearse....

Romeo told her to cool it with her landlord.... Citizen Hearse.... The crack-head in the fedora.... Think of the children....

At that very moment, Damien was in the hallway, luring Jason into an abandoned elevator shaft....

Citizen Hearse refused to remove the PCB-ridden bomb-making apparatus that the loco Taliban left on the balcony after they got evicted for operating a gin mill....

Carlotta called Damien inside just in time.... To make him stand on the balcony at night in his pajamas.... Firing spit-balls at Citizen Hearse's Russian-trained body guards using only a Dixie straw....

The guards were armed.... They yanked their revolvers out of the holsters and spun around like commandos.... Firing randomly into crowds of late-night revelers....

Fuck yuh, bastads....

The first hearing before the rental board.... She was late.... She claimed that when she arrived the adjudicator was just leaving.... He said he had decided against her.... Citizen Hearse had testified that she had not been paying rent.... She showed the adjudicator her receipts....

She described how the adjudicator's neck turned red like he was having an apoplectic seizure.... He said he was going to do something he had never done before.... Reverse his own decision.... He scheduled a second hearing in two weeks....

Sure....

Remember, Romeo said, you have kids....

Romeo took her to the second hearing in Old Shitty Hall.... The adjudicator decided that she could stay and that Citizen Hearse had to make repairs.... But she had to pay rent....

Next Carlotta tried the voodoo.... She begged Romeo to find her another book of toad-spells....

Romeo said they wouldn't work on Citizen Hearse.... Citizen Hearse was immune.... Carlotta believed he had an amulet.... Romeo said he had lawyers....

Yes, and she had kids....

They were subsisting on free doughnuts and chokelite cake down at the Coffee Slime.... The proprietor was hot for her too.... He wanted to make her his fancy woman....

Carlotta even tried the kindness of relatives. It wasn't hard; they didn't have any....

She was building

RESILIENCE....

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Porko entered Johnny's THING STORE wearing a T-shirt with the slogan I DO LAUNDRY. His escutcheon.

It resembled a POSITRON....

Johnny imagined him doing the laundry at every crisis of his fucked-up mental life....